



RHODE ISLAND TRUCKING ASSOCIATION, INC.

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July 21, 2020

**State of Rhode Island
Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

RE: H7171, Article 3 - Funding of DMV CDL Testing

Dear Chairman Abney:

This letter is to reaffirm our strong support for the above-referenced action which would provide funding to facilitate the DMV 's assuming control of the Commercial Driver License skills testing.

The Rhode Island Trucking Association has been working very closely with the Rhode Island Department of Motor Vehicles to eliminate barriers for applicants wishing to obtain a Commercial Driver Licenses. This includes the DMV's offering CDL appointments for applicants and supporting the implementation of skills test point banking which was just codified in law in the past legislative session.

Despite this progress and at a time where CDL procurement is critical for job development and our industry's sustainability, there remains a critical bottleneck at our state's CDL testing site - currently under the control of the Community of College of Rhode Island. Both RITA and the DMV leadership agree that the current system is inadequate to meet the demands of our industry which is currently experiencing a driver shortage. The remedy to this problem has been identified and rests with the DMV assuming direct control over this process at its facility on Melrose Street. The CCRI model is wrought with a multitude of deficiencies that this move would immediately alleviate and solve.

Our membership and the Rhode Island consumer rely upon an efficient pipeline of drivers to deliver goods and move Rhode Island's freight. Accordingly, we fully support Article 3 funding which would fund the transition of CDL testing to the RIDMV from CCRI and believe the return on investment would come with job growth in a well-paying sector with an acute and immediate workforce demand.



EXCLUSIVE R.I. AFFILIATE



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Page 2 of 2

In closing, the original content and spirit of this letter was drafted and submitted in February for previously-scheduled testimony that, I assume, was interrupted by Covid-19. The need for this action is exponentially more acute given the backlog of testing created by the pandemic and anticipated future demands of our state and nation's supply chain.

Once again, thank you for your consideration. I am available at (401)265-4638 to discuss this matter and answer any question that you may have.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher J. Maxwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Christopher J. Maxwell
President & CEO
Rhode Island Trucking Association



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